

And also delivered the following message; which was read, viz.

By the Senate, February 23, 1829.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,

We have considered your message of the 14th inst. proposing to instruct the joint committee appointed upon the subject of the chancery records, to inquire into the expediency of reducing the compensation now made to the register in chancery and clerks of the county courts, for recording judgments and decrees. We acknowledge the propriety of such an inquiry, and therefore concur in the object of your message.

By order,

L. Gassaway, Clk.

On motion by Mr. Semmes, the house resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday, as regards the bill originally reported on the 9th instant, by Mr. Dane, as chairman of the committee on ways and means, entitled, An act for the general valuation and assessment of property in this state, and reported by the committee of the whole house, to which it had been committed, with sundry amendments.

On motion by Mr. Blakistone, the 19th section of the bill was reconsidered, and amended, by inserting therein, after the words 'having the care and management of any slave or slaves shall,' in the second line of that section, these words, 'under the penalty of one hundred dollars', and also by striking therefrom the following words, in the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th lines to wit. 'and if any owner or person having the management of any slave or slaves, shall omit or refuse to give an account as aforesaid, or wilfully misrepresent his or her age, such owner or person having the management of such slave or slaves, shall pay double tax on the value of such slave or slaves, as the same shall be fixed by the assessors, upon the best information they can obtain.'

On motion by Mr. Grason, the said 19th section was further amended, by erasing the word 'deliver,' in the second line, and substituting the word 'give;' and also by erasing in the 6th and 7th lines in the printed bill, these words. 'and such account shall be dated and signed by the person making the same.'

On motion by Mr. Hughes, the decision of the house yesterday, adopting the 16th amendment proposed by the committee of the whole house in regard to the 22d section, was reconsidered for the purpose of amendment. When,

Mr. Hughes moved to amend the 22d section, as it now stands amended, by striking therefrom the following words: 'unless the assessors have good reason to believe the said statement is incorrect, and intended to defraud the state; in which case it, shall be the duty of assessors